

# NEW HAMPSHIRE INSTITUTE FOR CIVICS EDUCATION



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# 2020 Annual Report

## A Letter to Our Partners, Funders & Supporters



2020 brought many challenges which became opportunities as our trajectory for civics learning moved to on-line webinars and Zoom meetings. Our funders couldn't have been more present and supportive, providing students, teachers, and the public with free tools to continue uninterrupted learning in civics education. We pivoted from our public lecture format to webinars throughout the fall, with over 800 participants. We adjusted our curriculum library, including our NH's Kid Governor and NH Mikva Challenge Soapbox Project curricula, to formats useful for remote or hybrid learning.



Like the rest of the country, the New Hampshire Institute for Civics Education was affected by several crises including COVID-19, civil unrest, recession, and threats to our constitutional democracy. These challenges raised questions for our organization as well as for our audiences: students, teachers, and the general public. We are proud of how our organization overcame these hurdles and continued to successfully strengthen our platform. We are grateful to the supporters, donors, and participants who ensured our programs adapted and grew despite hardship. The essential nature of our mission is even clearer now than it was a year ago. It is more important now than ever to equip every citizen with knowledge, understanding, skills, and attitudes that support democratic decision-making. As Louise Dubé of CivXNow states, "We are living through the most important civics lesson of our lifetimes."

We want to recognize the hard work of the Board of Trustees, who grew this organization in many ways over the past year. We accomplished many facets of our strategic plan including the creation of a development plan, the launching of a state-of-the-art website with a searchable K-12 civics curriculum library. All curricula is locally sourced, created by New Hampshire educators inspired by the past 5 years of professional development opportunities.

We want to thank our funders for seeing the need to support civics education as we face these lessons head on, and prepare for the challenges of tomorrow. We've created the platform and are now ready to accelerate and build our capacity.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Martha Madsen in black ink.

Martha Madsen, Executive Director

Handwritten signature of John Lewis in purple ink.

Hon. John Lewis, Board Chair

# Program Capacity

68% Increase in 2020

With the support of our funders and donors, we experienced a 68% increase in revenue, allowing us to expand our capacity and provide the following learning opportunities for New Hampshire citizens:

## 2020 OUTREACH SUMMARY

- Implemented the NH's Kid Governor Program. Now in its third year, the program reached fifty-five grade 5 classrooms and over one thousand students in all ten NH counties. Students elected Charlie Olsen on his platform to address and destigmatize childhood depression. Charlie received national recognition on *NBC Nightly News*.
- Conducted free professional development in nine areas of study covering all age levels:
  - The Joy of Journalism: K-12
  - NH's Kid Governor Boot Camp
  - Democracy in Action in Elementary School: How to Infuse Principles of Democracy in Everyday Teaching
  - Civics in the Middle: Engaging Student Voice for Inquiry to Informed Action
  - Authentic Engagement: Community Connections in Legal Education
  - Women's Suffrage & the 19th Amendment
  - Engaged Voters & Citizens 100 Years Later
  - Three-day NH Mikva Challenge Soapbox Project Intensive
  - Student Journalism: What is the Law?
- Initiated and implemented the nationally vetted civics curriculum, *Mikva Challenge: Project Soapbox*, in six rural school districts: Pittsfield, Weare, Henniker, Littleton, Groveton and Gorham. Retired NH Supreme Court Chief Justice John Broderick, First Lady Valerie Sununu and Senator Dan Feltes served as civic partners.
- Hosted five William W. Treat lectures featuring Judge and now Attorney General Merrick Garland, Loise Dubé, Ted McConnell, Michael Rebell and Maggie Goodlander, among others. All are accessible on our website and all focused on being imperative of civic education for national health and security.
- Created and implemented the *Civics 603!* oral argument and court education pilot program in Nashua, Rye, Concord, and Windham.

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



NH's Kid Governor Charlie Olsen talks with Governor Chris Sununu at the NH's Kid Governor Inauguration.



Janet Breslin Smith presents at the William W. Treat Lecture Series: *Protect & Defend the Constitution - The Importance of the Oath of Office*. She shares her experience of being in another country, and what it's like to have a visceral feeling of having no government, no law, and no structure.



Our Authentic Engagement professional development course demonstrates how NH teachers can engage students with the courts. This year featured teachers Aaron Blais of Exeter and Kate Sintros of Hopkinton, attorney Seth Aframe and Judge Will Delker. The course demonstrated how students meet with attorneys to hear opening statements, talk with the Judge regarding the case, prepare their own arguments, and attend the trial itself. Our Educator Workshops provide professional development CEUs and teacher stipends.



7th graders argue their first case *Tinker vs. Des Moines Independent School District* as part of our *Civics 603!* program via Zoom with Program Director Dina Michael Chaitowitz and Retired NH Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Lynn.

# *Funding Partners*

*As the pandemic impacted our educational system, our funders responded with timely and supportive resources, enabling us to quickly convert curriculum into high quality on-line programming, both for students and educators.*

**A big thank you to our funding partners for coming through during this time of need:**

**Archibald Foundation**

**Bruton and Berube, PLLC**

**Citizens Count**

**Cogswell Benevolent Trust**

**Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation**

**Geoffrey and Martha Fuller Clark Foundation**

**Grappone Management Co., Inc.**

**John Bickford Foundation**

**Nashua Teachers' Union**

**National Education Association - NH**

**National Endowment for the Humanities**

**Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund**

**Network for Good**

**New Hampshire Charitable Foundation**

**NH Center for Nonprofits**

**NH Council for Social Studies**

**NH Humanities**

**NH League of Women Voters**

**NH Supreme Court Society**

**Northeast Delta Dental**

**Orr and Reno, PA**

**Tamposi Foundation**

**Warren B. Rudman Center at the UNH Franklin**

**Pierce School of Law**

**William W. Treat Foundation**



Middle school children working with the *Tinker vs. Des Moines Independent School District* case as part of our Civics 603! programming with Program Director Dina Michael Chaitowitz.

# 2020 Donors

Thank you donors! You powered this year's accomplishments and infused the organization with the tools and resources necessary for growth.

Andrea and Rick Amodeo-Vickery

Christopher Bandazian

Barbara Bates Sedoric and Tom Sedoric

Marek Bennett

Aaron Blais

Steve and Linda Borofsky

David Bradley

Janet Breslin Smith

Fred and Rebecca Briccetti

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Dan Wise

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Lucy Wyman

Anne Zinkin and Jonathan Lax

# Future Outlook

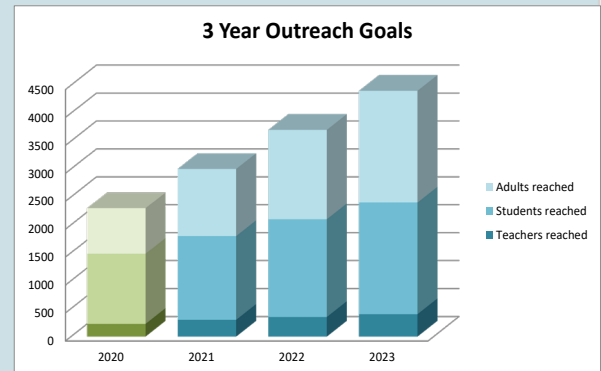
In 2021, the New Hampshire Institute for Civics Education will expand capacity, reaching more teachers, more students, and more members of the general public. We seek to weigh in on policy matters that will support authentic and durable civic learning. We will expand resources via our website and our curriculum library and will provide all of this free of charge and in a nonpartisan manner.

As a battleground state for our nation's democracy, New Hampshire has a special obligation to prepare our students and the general public for their essential role as citizens. We have of late been confronted with the fragility of democracy; our awareness of every citizen's crucial responsibility is heightened. An increasing number of policy makers and funders are intent on investing in civics education and the infrastructure of our system of government. As the only organization in our state with civic learning as its core and specific mission, with our professional development capacity and with our student programming, we are positioned to take on this important role in our state.

As the state affiliate for the national CivXNow coalition, we are in conversation with national leaders and informed regarding a variety of state and national policy initiatives. We will continue to partner with our New Hampshire colleagues at the NH Civics Education Roundtable, as we know that in coalition, we are greater than the sum of our parts. Many thanks to the Warren B. Rudman Center, the NH Supreme Court Society, the NH Bar Association, the NH Historical Society, NH Humanities, Citizens Count, Civics 101, and the NH Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College for their partnership.

We are at an inflection point in our civic life as a nation. With your help, we are poised to rise and meet the moment.

*We've created the platform, and we're positioned for growth.*



*More public discourse & public programming is needed.*



Merrick Garland speaks at the William W. Treat Lecture, *A Conversation with Merrick Garland*, which is a series made possible with a generous donation by the William W. Treat Foundation. Judge Treat believed deeply in the respectful exchange of ideas across party lines to advance the public good. The William W. Treat Lecture Series is a collaboration between the Warren B. Rudman Center, the NH Supreme Court Society, the NH Bar Association, NH Humanities, the NH Institute for Civics Education, Citizens Count, Civics 101, the NH Historical Society and the The Institute of Politics at St. Anselm College.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

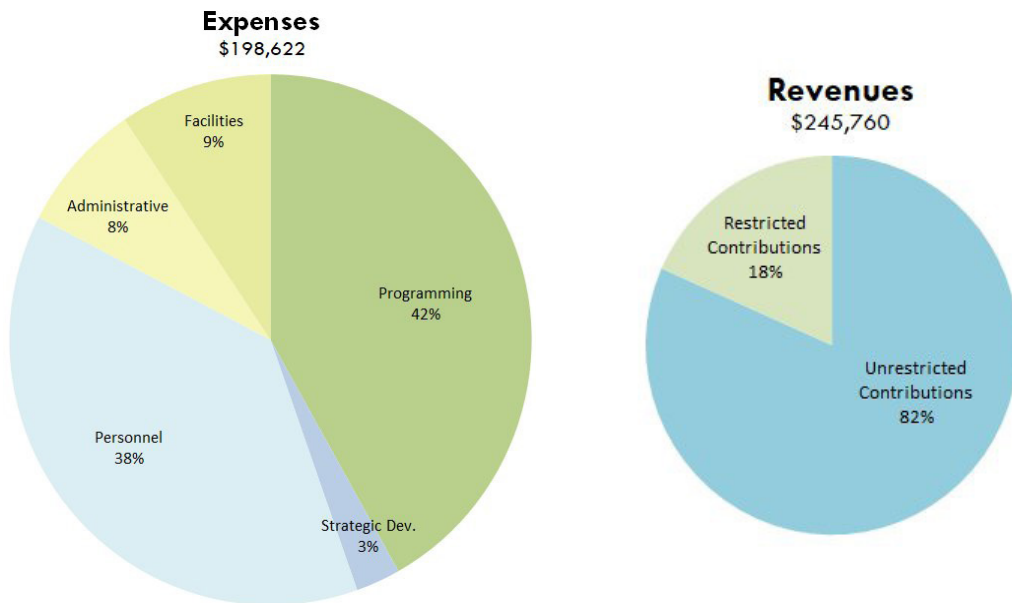
Balance Sheet  
as of December 31, 2020

## ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	199,724.58
Total Assets	\$	199,724.58

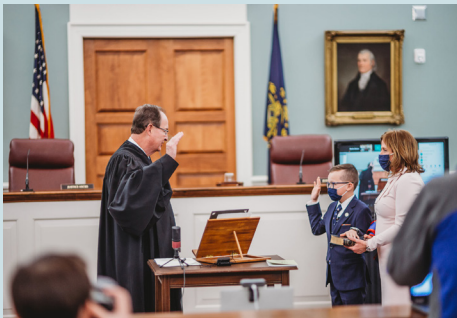
## LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	130,734.46
Total Restricted Assets	\$	21,850.80
Net Income	\$	47,139.32
Total Equity	\$	199,724.58
TOTAL LIABILITY AND EQUITY	\$	199,724.58



### Notes about the graphs

Programming expenses fell short of forecasted levels due to COVID-19 and the shift from in-person to remote programming  
Administrative expenses included items such as bookkeeping, tax filings, fundraising, insurance, dues and office expenses  
A large proportion of personnel time is devoted to programming



## 2020 Trustees:

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